



## FIGHTING THE GIANT

April 2020

*David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”*

1 Samuel 17:32

Have you ever noticed how, when you’re absorbed in something, you lose any fear you might have been struggling with? You gain courage without realizing it.

In David’s case, he was passionate about what he was doing. And I’m learning more and more that when we feel passionate—or at least eager—about what we’re doing and believe in it, we gather courage. Fear fades away.

And how much more true this is when we know we’re working for God!

Years ago I was in a crowded market in the town of Pentatlan, Mexico. It could have been a dangerous place for tourists, but all I could think of was taking pictures. The market was

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narrow, confusing . . . and exciting. I was especially taken by the chickens and fish lying in the open—flies buzzing all around them. Though I have a tendency for anxiety in strange places, I spent a fair amount of time with a camera in front of my face, oblivious to what was happening around me. My husband had to tell me several times to get out of the way of people. I was too absorbed to pay attention.

What happened to me here? And what happened to David in the text above as he prepared to fight Goliath? The Bible shows him to be courageous—fearless. He was fighting the giant on God's behalf, and he trusted God. I'm sure he was praying. And I was totally absorbed in something I loved to do.

We're not David fighting the Philistine. We're not in a crowded market in Mexico. But God is with us too, as he was with David and me long ago. In the way I became eager about something I liked to do, we all need things that will distract us from things we fear.

I pray that you too will think of things that could provide pockets of joy for yourself and for others. Pastimes that will help you forget the bad. Pastime that will remind you there's a lot of good in this world.

God is with you. There's nothing to fear.

marja